GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3221
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2005
ENCLAVES BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of enclaves between India and Bangladesh;

(b) whether the residents of these enclaves have not been awarded any nationality as yet;

(c) whether the people living in these enclaves do not have any access to drinking water, sanitation, health facilities and electricity etc; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to regularise these enclaves?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India.

(b): The residents of Indian enclaves in Bangladesh are Indian nationals. However, they will be offered a choice of citizenship at the time of transfer of enclaves between India and Bangladesh as per the Land Boundary Agreement signed in 1974 by both the countries.

(c): Since we do not have any access to these enclaves, it is difficult to state whether they have access to facilities like drinking water, sanitation, health facilities and electricity etc. However, it is learnt that the residents of these enclaves have made some local arrangements in this regard.

(d): The Government of India raised this issue at the Foreign Secretary level talks in December, 2000 where it was decided to set up two Joint Boundary Working Groups to address the pending boundary relating issues and subsequently the said Groups were constituted in June, 2001. Both the countries agreed for the joint survey to identify the residents of these enclaves and giver them the choice of citizenship. Recently in the Foreign Secretary level meeting held in June this year at New Delhi between India and Bangladesh, it was decided to resume the meetings of the Joint Working Groups to address the boundary related issues including exchange of enclaves.